

THE Pacific Commercial Advertiser

A MORNING PAPER.

WALTER G. SMITH EDITOR

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THE GOVERNOR'S FIRST UTTERANCE.

It is not inordinate praise to say that Governor Frear's inaugural address is one of the ablest state documents ever produced in the almost a century of Hawaii's pursuit of civilized and liberal government. Statesmanlike, judicious, comprehensive, the Governor's first official utterance to the people of the Territory of Hawaii conveys the assurance of a progressive administration. With a touch of that art that conceals art, too, Governor Frear gives this pledge of progress without specific promises, much less any the slightest appearance of boasting. This characteristic of the address is both striking and satisfactory. It shows the judicial mind of the speaker applied to practical affairs, his perception of the difference between putting on and putting off the harness. Instead of declaring what he shall do, he defines what should be done. And instead of prefiguring the governor as bearer of all power and responsibility, he gives it for granted that, not merely the heads of departments, but the whole people are to be his active partners in carrying out a policy that shall advance the Territory of Hawaii toward the highest goal of Americanization.

Governor Frear's introductory remarks, giving a politico-historical sketch of Hawaii's past, constitute a masterly effort in themselves. It would be difficult to conceive of more being said in fewer words. In this section of the address the Governor's friendship for the native Hawaiians, among whom he grew up to manhood, is unmistakably declared and that with no suspicion of dissimulation attached. Their political importance is recognized, their limitations candidly though kindly stated, their rapid development toward American ideals generously acknowledged. When the sentiments of the newly installed executive have been fully borne into the minds of the American-Hawaiians, forming as Governor Frear says a majority of the electorate, the result can hardly fail to be a fuller realization of the merit the address awards them of having "displayed in a remarkable degree"—in the period since annexation—the qualities of "amenability to reason and a disposition and capacity to make right choices."

The inaugural address reveals a thorough mental grasp of the industrial history of Hawaii and of the problems of industrialism now pressing for solution. It will be observed how slightly the Governor deals in the stock predictions of Hawaiian prosperity based on external factors—such as Federal War Department works and the completion of the Panama Canal—all indefinitely in the future and for the present at least of chiefly speculative import. Everything, in fact, of value mainly for pyrotechnical oratory is a little necessary illusion. Instead of such topics the address mainly seizes upon the actualities of the living present. Its analysis of the existing situation with regard to the most vital matters of land settlement, diversified industries and immigration—which today constitute the single great problem upon the solution of which the development of the Hawaiian Islands along American lines depends—is at once masterly and reassuring. The Governor has a complete understanding of all the conditions, simple and complex, in this regard. His discussion of them, revealing his intended policy, is both inspiring of confidence that established interests will be conserved and encouraging of hope that the newer resources of wealth will be stimulated by all legitimate means the administration can bring into play.

Grouping the difficulties of the accepted policy of having the islands populated with a domiciled industrial class, fit for citizenship if not already in that category, as apart from questions of immigration, being "mainly those of stability of crops, methods of cultivation and manufacture, irrigation, transportation and market," Governor Frear cheerfully adds, "The solution will constantly grow easier." He gives valid reasons for this bright optimism, in which the speculative element already referred to is but a mere tincture. The main causes, to aid in Hawaiian development, are now in visible operation or projection both here and in the mainland sections with which our interests are largely identified.

The Advertiser made no mistake when, before the inaugural address was delivered or its contents known, it assumed that Governor Frear purposed to carry out a progressive and liberal policy in extension and amplification of the most advanced ideas of the retiring administration.

A correspondent of the New York Sun says, "We are living in the age of a drink-drenched drama," and proceeds to describe how the bottle and glasses abound in almost every play and vaudeville performance. After citing some particularly strong examples of the condition in question the writer says: "Certain of the amusement loving public follow the events of the drama as closely as practicable in private life, and stage acting furnishes object lessons which may be and doubtless often are repeated under other auspices. Few persons will dare deny that this stage drinking exerts a certain if unconscious influence upon many theatergoers, and neither fair-haired matinee girl nor pious graybeard is immune from it. Wives who are trying to reform rum soaked husbands might profitably veto the theater." Readers of current fiction, in book and periodical, must have noticed also that it is quite copiously bedewed with spirituous and vinous moisture, and in most cases in a manner that makes social drinking appear fascinating. The Sun writer says he does not pose as a reformer but wonders if people in that class have noticed that to which he calls attention.

It is not everybody who can discern the "handwriting on the wall" that gives warning of great changes. Lord Masham of England has just evinced that sort of wisdom. In a letter bidding his tenants on the Jervaulx estate farewell, he explains why he sold it after having held it for nearly twenty years. During that time he said his rents had been reduced and doubtless the profits of the tenants had become less, but still they had got on pleasantly and had reached a level satisfactory to both, and might have continued another eighteen years. His lordship, however, adds: "What caused me to part with the estate has been nothing but the proposed land legislation of the present government, and their undisguised hostility to landlords. I felt that 35,000 acres of English land was too large a holding to be prudent, and that it would be wise to reduce it. Hence my parting with the Jervaulx estate."

A cablegram the middle of July mentioned the arrest of a Minister of Public Instruction in Italy for embezzlement. The particulars by mail name Signor Nasi, a former minister, as the man and show that there was nothing small about his alleged peculation. Half a million dollars is the sum stated. Nasi's secretary was also arrested. It is further mentioned that Nasi recently took his seat as a member of the Chamber of Deputies. A "fine Italian hand" it must be that could go so deeply into the public treasury before detection.

NEW AUSTRALIAN LINE.

Victoria Colonist, August 2.—The steamer Forerice, Capt. Gardiner, of Weir line, reached port Wednesday at noon from San Francisco, where she discharged a full cargo of Australian coal loaded at Newcastle, N. S. W. The Forerice is to be the first of the new Australian mail line of steamers established by Andrew Weir & Co. in combination with F. Waterhouse & Co. of Seattle, and Howard Smith & Co. of Australia. It was expected the Forerice would be placed in the crydock here to be overhauled, instructions to that effect having been received here some time ago from the London office of the company, but it seems that these orders were countermanded by the Seattle office and the steamer was ordered to Vancouver, where she will begin loading lumber at Hastings Mills. After loading part cargo at the Vancouver mills, the Forerice will shift to Chemainus to load lumber there, and will thence proceed here and to Puget Sound ports if cargo offers, and then via San Francisco she will sail for Sydney and New Zealand ports.

Although the new Australian line will for the time being be essentially a freight line, carrying British Columbia lumber to Australia, and whatever other freight offers, and bringing Aus-

tralian coal north to San Francisco, it is the intention of Andrew Weir & Co., if the business offers the necessary inducements, to either alter some of the steamers now in commission to fit them as passenger carriers or have some faster passenger steamers, in keeping with the requirements of modern travel, built for the service. The Weir firm is a wealthy one, operating about a score of steamers, mostly in the Pacific, as well as about two dozen sailing craft, and it has been reported that the management of the firm has been considering entering the passenger trade for some time past. With the withdrawal of the direct line from San Francisco, formerly operated by the Oceanic Steamship Company, it is considered that there is an opportunity to enter the passenger carrying trade between north Pacific ports and Australia, and, if the present freight line enjoys the business it is expected to do, the passenger service will probably follow. The Forerice is now on her third trip to Victoria. She came out to this coast with building material from Antwerp for San Francisco following the earthquake disaster at that city, and has since made two voyages to Australia, taking lumber to Sydney and bringing return cargoes of coal. Capt. Gardiner, master of the steamer, is well known in Victoria and Vancouver.

EXPLORATION IS ADVOCATED

Writer Would Like to Have Palama Structure Examined.

Editor Advertiser: Several days ago your paper contained an article on what might turn out to be a valuable discovery. The article referred to some masonry work in the ground at the Palama pumping station. Several men from Honolulu visited the spot, each made his guess at what it might be, went back home, and there the matter seems to have ended.

One man says, "I think it is an old swimming tank." The next in line says, "I think it is an old tomb with valuable information inside." Another, "Part of an old temple." One says, "Why, that was built before Captain Cook discovered the islands."

With the above suppositions, a question in science seems to be considered settled.

These people having exposed their thoughts, if my guess is next in order, here it is: I think that the truth about this swimming tank or tomb or temple, built before Captain Cook discovered the islands, will remain a mystery until it is properly examined, and that may only require a few feet of digging. I visited the place the day on which the article appeared in your paper, and all who saw this mysterious thing at that time could not deny that the work was done by man. I visited the place again yesterday, and found that the walls which entered the hole had been removed, and the digging seems to have come to an end directly over what appears to be a second covering to this tomb, or whatever else it might be. I asked the engineer at the station what was going to be done about the matter, and he said that he thought they would go right ahead and build an oil tank in the hole, and thus forever seal up the mystery.

Of course, to bore into this thing may reveal nothing; yet who knows but that it may reveal a great deal? Its walls are built double, the outer parts being about six or eight feet apart, with large rocks thrown in between. The rocks forming the outer parts are well surfaced and placed one upon the other, with a queer kind of cement to hold them together.

Whatever the whole thing is, it was never formed by nature; nor is it the work of anything else other than man; and if man did it, he surely did not do it for nothing; then "Why did he do it?" Ah, that is the question—a question which no man can answer—and it never will be answered until the thing is properly examined. Who should bear the expense?

A. C. MABY.
Honolulu, August 15, 1907.

Afternoon Cable Report

(Delayed in Transmission.)

CLONMEL, Ireland, August 14.—The apartments of Lord Ashtown were shattered by a bomb last night while he was sleeping.

RIO DE JANEIRO, August 14.—The government has sanctioned the establishment of three Japanese settlements.

SAN FRANCISCO, August 14.—The wire service is improving all over the country.

SAN FRANCISCO, August 14.—The second trial of Louis Glass, president of the Pacific States Telephone Company, for bribery, has begun. Supervisors Lomeran and Boston have testified, repeating their confessions of accepting \$5000 bribes to vote for the company's franchise.

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